

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
Norfolk Division

RAYMOND ALEXANDER FORD, JR., #355796,

FILED
AUG 25 2009
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT NORFOLK, VA

Petitioner,

v.

2:09CV143

GENE M. JOHNSON, Director of the
Virginia Department of Corrections,

Respondent.

FINAL ORDER

This matter was initiated by petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. The petition alleges violation of federal rights pertaining to petitioner's convictions on September 13, 2005, in the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia, for use of a firearm in the commission of a malicious wounding. As a result of the conviction, petitioner was sentenced to serve twenty-two years in the Virginia penal system.

The matter was referred to a United States Magistrate Judge pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and (C) and Rule 72 of the Rules of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia for report and recommendation. The Magistrate Judge filed his report recommending dismissal of the petition on August 4, 2009. By copy of the report, each party was advised of his right to file written objections to the findings and recommendations made by the Magistrate Judge. The Court has received no objections to the report, and the time for filing same has expired.

The Court does hereby accept the findings and recommendations set forth in the report of the United States Magistrate Judge. Therefore, it is ORDERED that the petition be DENIED and DISMISSED on the

basis of petitioner's procedural default in the state courts and on the merits and that judgment be entered in respondent's favor.

Petitioner may appeal from the judgment entered pursuant to this Final Order by filing a written notice of appeal with the Clerk of this court, United States Courthouse, 600 Granby Street, Norfolk, Virginia 23510, within thirty days from the date of entry of such judgment. Petitioner has failed to demonstrate "a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." Therefore, the Court, pursuant to Rule 22(b) of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, declines to issue a certificate of appealability. See Miller-El v. Cockrell, 537 U.S. 322, 336 (U.S. 2003).

The Clerk shall mail a copy of this Final Order to petitioner and to counsel of record for respondent.

/s/
Rebecca Beach Smith
United States District Judge *RBS*

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Norfolk, Virginia

August 25, 2009